Disputed tax liabilities of PSUs

3296. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the listed Indian Companies including PSUs have more than Rs. 28,000 crores in disputed tax liabilities as on 2001-2002;

(b) whether this is more than 40 per cent of the disputed liabilities of listed companies for the year 2001-02;

(c) if so, the details of companies/PSUs alongwith their tax liabilities under dispute; and

(d) what steps are being taken for the expenditure settlement of disputed liabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total disputed tax liabilities as on 31.3.2002 amounted to Rs. 34,969.25 crores. Separate figures in respect of the disputed tax liabilities of listed Indian Companies and PSUs are not maintained.

(b) No comments can be made in view of reply to para (a) above.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to para (a) above.

(d) The following steps are being taken for expeditious settlement of disputed tax liabilities in all cases, including listed Indian companies and PSUs.

1. Creation of a large number of posts of Commissioner (appeals) for faster disposal of appeals. Withdrawal of powers to set-side an assessment.
2. Creation of a large number of posts of Tax Recovery Officers for strengthening the tax recovery machinery.
3. Issue of comprehensive instruction on recovery of taxes and stay of demand. Making of the Assessing Officer responsible for collecting all collectible demands.
4. Time-bound disposal of appeals by ITAT where stay of demand has been granted.
5. Periodical monitoring of cases of demands above Rs. 10 lakhs by very senior officers of the Department.